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# LAVENDER®

AUGUST 11-24, 2011 | **ISSUE 423** | DOG DAYS OF SUMMER DINING

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### ON THE COVER

Stars of the local film by Pam Colby, *Fertile Ashes* (now in production): Catherine Krull, Mel Cruz-Lleras, Kim Johnson, and Tawnya "Sweetpea" Konobeck-Essen at Pumphouse Creamery in Minneapolis. Photo by Mike Hnida.



Photo by Andy Lien

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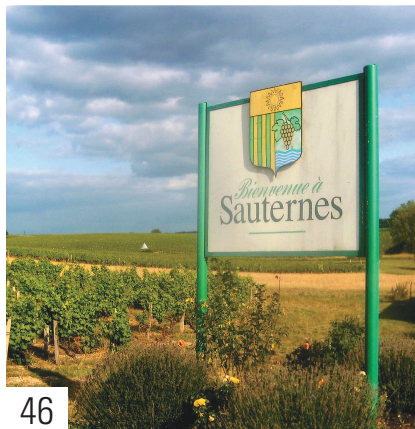


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I BROUGHT MY eight-year old nephew to Lavender's "Out in the Stands" night at Target Field. I'd never been to Target Field, so I was a little concerned. It's one thing to go with someone older than eight who's already been there—or one who hasn't, but can stumble through all the first-times with me. It's another to be The Adult. Being The Adult means I have to know What's Going On. I asked my friends. I asked my coworkers. I asked my brother. Okay, okay, okay. Park there, walk there, and 7th Street ends at the Field. And it did. And we got there.

Once we walked through the gates I looked out at the expanse of people and seats...looked down at our tickets...looked up again...and had no clue as to where to go. I was not blessed with a great sense of direction. I can get from Point A to Point B with aplomb, but usually by envisioning the map or layout in my head. I prefer visual cues. I hadn't looked for our seats online before setting out for the Field and I was paying for that by being stymied. In the heat. With an eight-year old. Who was hungry.

Then I saw us.

I saw people wearing the same t-shirt that I was and I knew I was close to our destination. Visual cues—white t-shirts, red and blue "Out in the Stands" logos, smiles. I followed them. At the flagpole, I uploaded a picture to Facebook of Courtney raising the flag as our "Out in the Stands" representative and got directions to our section of seats from her friends. Everything was so much more manageable once I'd found us.

Going the direction I'd been pointed, the bunny warren full of people again became confusing. I'm not sure if it was the rate at which I kept glancing at my ticket or that my nephew asked his usual question, "Auntie, do you *know* where we're going?" rather loudly, but soon a gentleman in a red Target Field shirt asked me if we needed help finding our seats. *Ohmygoshthankyouyeswedo*. Without knowing exactly where they were, he informed me how to get there based simply on the fact that I was wearing the "Out in the Stands" t-shirt.

We followed his directions and, suddenly, we were there. With us. We joined a sea of white t-shirts and we settled in, happy. Almost everyone around us was part of our group and, though we didn't know them, we belonged. The man seated to my nephew's left, Mark, ended up sort of adopting us, whether or not he knew it (or would have volunteered to do it) as eight-year olds tend to drop all sorts of things when watching a ballgame and eating their way through my wallet. Mark was on the left and I was on the right. He was gracious and so very nice. The game was played and, all too soon, a bedtime



Photos by Mike Hnida



Photo by Sophia Hantzes

loomed and it was time to leave.

As we retraced our steps to leave the Field after the sixth inning, we ran into the same gentleman in the red Target Field shirt who had helped us find our seats. He asked us how our night was and I told him that we had a wonderful time. I sheepishly explained that I was new to *Lavender* and a little embarrassed to be so lost at our own event, so his assistance was ever so appreciated. We got to get down to the business of having a great time sooner, thanks to his help.

He smiled and said that he was so glad that we all enjoyed ourselves, gesturing to my t-shirt. Then, he held eye contact and pointedly said, "I had a great time, too."

He smiled again, more broadly—a subtle emphasis to his statement.

I got it. I understood. And, I realized

that—whether or not he was wearing a white t-shirt with a red and blue "Out in the Stands" logo—he was with us, too.

The perfect end to a lovely evening "Out in the Stands."

With thanks,  
Andy

#### Hot Fun in the Summertime (Above):

Special thanks to Barb Zapzalka at Pumphouse Creamery for hosting our cover shoot with the actresses of *Fertile Ashes*: Catherine, Mel, Kim, and Sweetpea. Fun shoot, delicious props, beautiful people. See all the photos from the shoot on [LavenderMagazine.com](http://LavenderMagazine.com) or on our Facebook page.



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## It's Right There in Black-and-White

"IT'S RIGHT THERE in black and white," folks say, citing some line in a religious text or political agenda to justify discrimination, persecution or prosecution of whomever they wish to prove their superiority.

A fundamentalist's "Black/White" is a rigid world-view, a binary set of beliefs that lifts from its members the onerous task of thinking, sifting, or analyzing information coming from without their closed system. In a fundamentalist world, there are only two places to be: One of Us—or One of Them. We/Us are right and saved; They/Them are damned or at least consigned to a non-participatory status in the group. "Other" is a useful category in which to contain and control dissenters who become not just different or misguided, but Evil.

The religious right, and I include Christians, Muslims and Jews—few religions are exempt—and political parties are drifting further and further apart into intransigent camps, seeking only to gain control, to keep the other side from "winning." The Mormons, already rigidly dichotomized, have their own further right wing fundamentalist splinter groups, while right wing Christians routinely and painstakingly cherry-pick a book written in a different age by non-Christians to prove without doubt (to themselves) that gays

are an abomination, ignoring other Hebraic sanctions in the same chapters.

Parleys, meetings of minds, agreements, are secondary to gaining total power for the group. So why even write this essay? To fundamentalist adherents, my words are nugatory, lacking power to persuade. Black-and-white does not dialogue.

Frankly, I'm preaching to the choir, and my sermon is an exhortation to seek out the grays, the full spectrum of grays between the Black and the White bringing to light the nuances that will allow individuals of different religions, political views and sexual preferences to celebrate our likenesses and ties to our fellow beings.

Without firm ties to others we will continue to drift inevitably into a world of theocracies, oligarchies, and autocracies. Just how that can be done, I don't know, but if inclusiveness is allowed to become exclusiveness, the few will create a smaller, meaner, more dangerous world.

As local author Jonathan Odell (*"The View from Delphi," "The Healing"*) wrote recently, "Fundamentalism doesn't work in government any better than it does in religion. Both are gifts to tyrants." □



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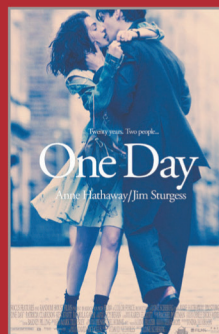
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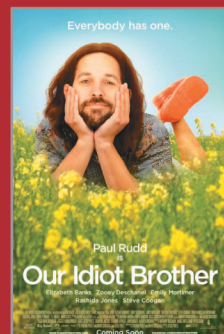
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# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

I'M NEW TO *Lavender*, so here's a little about me.

First off, I have this thing about the GLB-TA alphabet, since at one time or another, I've been each of those letters. I started off as an "A," a gay rights ally, living large as a hairy, deep-voiced, straight, white, married guy with two kids. Then, after 32 years (22 married, 10 dating), I left my wife thinking I was a "G." That didn't last because I thought that really, I was just a "B," so I went back to my poor wife. I left again when I started thinking I was a "T." Thankfully, that did last, and now I'm a year post-op (both bottom and

facial surgeries) dating a great woman with eyesight issues, who thinks that I'm beautiful. (I just had to add that last part; actually, it has nothing to do with the story.) I think this officially makes me a "L."

It's not that I'm all that screwed up, at least not anymore. I've had years of therapy with multiple therapists. Finally, I found one who actually helped. She kicked the crap out of me before we were done, but at least I figured things out.

At age 52.

Talk about coming to the party late.

Part of the delay was denial. I had the life

that any person would want, with a loving wife, two devoted daughters, and a successful career. How could I give that up?

Another reason was my personality. I was a lawyer when I lived as a man. Not just any kind of lawyer; I was an attack dog, son of a bitch, oh-why-do-we-have-to-deal-with-him kind of lawyer and person. Sure, my clients loved me, but almost everyone else—opposing attorneys and their clients, people who worked for me, and others—hated me.

I found that when you're frustrated with your life, it's damn easy to attack, and sometimes decimate, other

*Continue on Page 15*

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*Continued from Page 12*

people. I was horrible. I still shudder when I think about it.

I hated myself for what I'd become, but I didn't know how to get out. I had the wrong life, the wrong gender, and the wrong values.

What started my GLBTA alphabet hopping was a personal epiphany, September, 11, a date that looms large for all of us.

On the night of 9/11. I sat in a church. Midway through the Mass (please, I'm past being Catholic, but I'm going for dramatic effect), I realized for the first time that I'd die someday. I imagined sitting in seat 13A on American Flight 11, watching as the looming tower came into view, thinking last thoughts. One of those thoughts: you coward. I hadn't been brave enough to be me, the person inside who had been itching to get out from

the moment I first wore my sister's clothes. (Okay, maybe too much information, but hell, it's part of the story.)

I started to understand that I was missing. The genuine person inside hadn't been allowed to see the light of day. The imposter who had grown up in a society that couldn't tolerate "different," had to go.

I knew that coming out would hurt many people who loved me. Remarkably, many of those people stuck by me. It wasn't easy, but I'm on the other side now, happy to report that life over here does exist. I've even managed to salvage relationships with my daughters and ex-wife.

In going from boy to girl, I got to Ellen. In the process, I lost the attack dog, and I became kinder and gentler, a genuine per-

son. We're talking really kind, as in I stop for turtles crossing the road. The people in my new life—I had to change cities—can't imagine the asshole I was.

And that's how I want it.

One more thing about me: I learned the power of gratitude. Not everyone can make the journey I've taken. I'm so lucky.

Make that so incredibly lucky.

In the end, I learned it's damn important to listen to yourself, to be genuine, regardless of where it takes you, even if it's to a "T." I'll always regret what I put loved ones through, but now, they seem to understand.

Because I finally see and respect me.

Funny how that happens. ▢

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## GLIMPSES



## Minnesota Lynx Host Breast Health Awareness Night

**On Tuesday, August 2**, the Lynx donned pink jerseys, shorts, sweat bands and shoes in support of breast health awareness and played their way to yet another win in their successful season. A live auction of the jerseys was held after the game with proceeds going to the Lynx Foundation, which supports breast cancer research and support programs in the state of Minnesota. [www.lynxbasketball.com](http://www.lynxbasketball.com)

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



## Phibbs to be Director of Education for the Office for Equity & Diversity

**Best wishes to** Anne Phibbs as she moves from the GLBTA Programs Office to a newly created position as Director of Education for the Office for Equity & Diversity at the University of Minnesota. As she elaborated on Facebook, "I am proud of what we—students, interns, staff, faculty, alumni, community members—have collectively created: our Ally Training Series, Txuj Ci Showcase, Transgender Commission, Tongues Untied, Bi/Pan/Fluid Sexuality Inclusion Project, Lavender House, Genderheads, the GLBTA Mentor Program, Leadership Retreat, Systemwide Summit, Leadership Year...and much more."

Phibbs pictured at the 2011 Pride Parade.  
Photo by Sophia Hantzes





Melissa Houghtaling

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# Dog Days of Summer Dining

by Andy Lien

The Dog Days of Summer. Sultry, lazy days. Days marked by lack of movement, a partial stagnation of sorts. But, being Minnesotans, we have a passive-aggressive flair to our stagnancy. We begrudgingly flirt with these still, humid days because we can recall the not-so-distant months of snow and cold. We embrace the steambath with a sigh and then go find some comfort food.

It's with these lazy, hazy, and crazy days of summer in mind that we present to you the Dog Days of Summer Dining. We found food vendors that you might encounter while already succumbing to the heat index at the Farmers Markets. Gourmet grab-and-go grub. Food trucks that meet you almost where you already are. Ice cream oases in your neighborhoods. Urban farmers who grow you good food while you live your summer in the city. And, for those of you who like it hot, we present ways to make things even hotter.



Foxy Falafel's Beet Falafel with Preserved Lemon and Goat Cheese Sauce. Photo by Andy Lien

## Farmers Market Food

Eating fresh and local is haute. Twitter is a-flutter with foodies traipsing to the wild variety of Farmers Markets in the area both weekdays and weekends, some only the size of a parking lot, others the size of a city block. As you wander through the booths of scapes and beets and honey jars and flower bouquets, mind your midsection. Be prepared to find your breakfast, your second breakfast, your elevenses, or your lunch as you juggle your reusable bags of local produce.



Foxy Pedal Powered Smoothies at Mill City Market (above) and Foxy Ladies at Kingfield Market (below). Photos by Andy Lien



Chef Shack's Sweet Potato Taco (left) and Beet Ice Cream at Mill City (right). Photos by Andy Lien



Baked Goods: Aunt Else's Aebelskiver (top) and Chef Shack's Indian-spiced mini-donuts at Mill City (middle), killer cookies from Sun Street Breads at Kingfield (bottom). Photos by Andy Lien

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**Dog Days of Summer Dining**

# Hot Hot Heat

by Joy Summers

We can't beat it, so we may as well join it. This summer has given us heat indexes that make Southerners sweat. Want to laugh in its face? Try these.



Photo by Joy Summers



Photo by Travis Anderson



Photo by Joy Summers

## SMACK SHACK LOBSTER

Josh Thoma and the crew of the Smack Shack lobster truck have been doling out lobster rolls by the dozens in downtown Minneapolis, but on evenings and the week-ends, they can be found at The 1029 Bar over in Northeast. Each month they hold lobster boils, a messy fest that comes drenched in butter and spattered with crustacean bits. Lose your inhibitions and don the bib, you'll be thankful you did. The August boil will last for three days (19-21) and is an all out bash, when The 1029 hosts their annual tent party. Tickets will be available through the Smack Shack's Facebook page.

## CHEF SHACK

The fleet of food trucks has grown exponentially, but there was a time when there was only one truck that was to be seen. After garnering national attention and fawning reviews, the Chef Shack remains a local treasure. Lisa Carlson and Carrie Summer's summer job has now expanded to include three trucks and a seemingly endless menu supply of tasty creativity.

The menus change often, but include items like sweet potato tacos, a vegetarian delight with savory sweet filling with fresh salsa, luscious pulled pork and the spiced mini donuts: possibly the greatest street food ever. Check Twitter or Facebook for locations.

## ANGRY GUMMI

Why only suffer the heat on the outside? Why not treat your innards to an inferno of boozy delight? The Angry Gummi as poured at the Northeast Minneapolis hotspot Masu Sushi & Robata looks friendly enough- a pale green drink topped with a jaunty little gummy bear- but then you take a sip. General advice in hot climate regions suggests that spicy items are best to combat the oppressive air. This drink fits the bill. The vodka carries sweet, tart grapefruit flavor and the pungent horseradish burn of pure wasabi, causes sweaty eyelids and cleared nasal passages.

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Photo by Mike Hnida

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**CAMEMBERT** Bent River Cheese is made by the Alemar Cheese Company. They use milk from Dave and Florence Minar at Cedar Summit Dairy. It is super creamy and crazy tasty. \$1.50 per oz.

**RUSTICA BREAD** Delicious Rustic loaf from Barbara and Steve at Rustica Bakery in Minneapolis. Made in traditional European methods, Rustica breads are the perfect addition to any picnic! \$4.95

## Scream For It

by Carla Waldemar

I scream, you scream, we all... Okay, I hear you. It's hot-hot-hot, and we long for ice cream. But not the square brick from the supermarket, thank you very much. We're holding out for the real deal, the local scoop shops that churn their own, super-premium, hold-the-additives frozen treats. Where to head? Here's the scoop.

**ADELE'S FROZEN CUSTARD**—well, technically, it's not ice cream; but, according to Adele, founder of the legendary Excelsior stand, it's far better: less air, for smoothness; egg yolks for richer flavor. Clearly her customers agree, vying for cones packed with goodness. Among Adele's 90 recipes, four flavors reign daily. Orange creamsicle, anyone?

**EDINA CREAMERY** sates the already-supercool patrollers of 50th & France with flavors melting from amaretto chocolate cherry and Butterfinger to more outré numbers like green tea and durian (I dare you). *Gourmet Magazine* voted it one of the Best in the U.S. I won't disagree.

**GRAND OLE CREAMERY** has drawn lines all down St. Paul's Grand Avenue for decades. Now a newer Nokomis location also stops traffic at the mere scent of those hand-rolled, malted waffle cones, which hold a secret surprise in the bottom (hint: love Whoppers?). The old-time ice cream parlor atmosphere is as addictive as the 31 flavors offered daily, ranging from chocolate malt banana and cotton candy to the quintessential sweet cream.

**IZZY'S** has created an ice-cream frenzy in St. Paul (and many a Minneapolitan has been known to cross the river) since 2000, thanks to a rotation of 32 gotta-try flavors, including that true test of a scoopmeister, pure vanilla. More esoteric flavors careen from Guinness to Norwegian Chai.

**PUMPHOUSE CREAMERY**, cooling Chicago Avenue, is a hole in the wall that some claim is hard to find. Well, just look for the crowd on the sidewalk, lined up for the ultra-organic, über-locally-sourced ingredients that contribute to prime flavors like fresh strawberry to—ready?—kulfi, scented with rosewater, pistachios, and cardamom.

Did you know that the newly reopened **WILDE ROAST** now at St. Anthony Main in Minneapolis is now scooping up housemade gelato? It is. Get some.

Photo by Rebecca Jackson



**SEBASTIAN JOE'S** has been family-owned (three brothers paying homage to their Italian grandfather, Sebastian) since the '80s, and its two Minneapolis locations serve only all-natural flavors, ranging from the zany (chocolate coyote, basil sorbet) to the immensely popular best-seller, Pavarotti, blended with caramel, bananas, and chocolate chips. Local art on the walls and free Wi-Fi, too.

**SONNY'S** ice cream has been the gold standard since 1945. Housed in South Lyndale's Crema Café, the scoop shop-cum-café calls on premier Wisconsin cream to churn out flavors like the original sweet cream to wild cards including chocolate cabernet chip and pineapple mango basil sorbet.



Photos by Andy Lien





# 128 CAFÉ

The 128 Café has been a fixture of St. Paul's Merriam Park neighborhood since 1996, but when Jill Wilson bought the place, it was still a risky investment. The 128 Café is tucked into the basement of an apartment building, and located off the main strip on Cleveland Avenue. Nevertheless, the dining room has a kind of unassuming elegance, and the same can be said for the food. Wilson puts it best, saying it feels a bit like going to a neighbor's house for dinner—that is, if your neighbors happen to be good cooks. Foodies have always frequented the place, but it remained the Twin Cities' best-kept secret until 2010, when instead of trying to get diners to find her hidden restaurant, Wilson decided to bring the restaurant to them with a custom-built food truck.

During the summer, they serve lunches to the corporate set in downtown St. Paul, and appear at special events.

Their off-site menu presents a scaled-down version of restaurant favorites and hearty, entrée-sized salads. The Ginger-Soy Sirloin Skewers (\$9), for example, are a fixture both on the truck and in the dining room. In other hands, its moderately spicy cashew sauce could be overwhelming, but restraint seems to be characteristic of Chef Ian Pierce's dishes. Thus unfettered, the tender sirloin, pickled carrots

and greens make for a charming appetizer.

If you are visiting for the first time, you should order either the Roast Garlic Apple Chutney with goat cheese, apple slices and grilled baguette (\$10), or the Beet Salad (\$8). The salad is an inspired twist on the classic, with fennel, goat cheese, candied pumpkin seeds, dressed oh-so-lightly with a refreshing lemon vinaigrette. If pressed to make a decision between the two, I would favor the roasted garlic chutney. The baguette is toasted to perfection, with just enough bite for texture but not so crisp that it loses its toppings. It seems like such a small point, but quite a few restaurants err on the side of overdone. The chutney has just the barest hint of mint, but it is quite complementary with the mellow roasted garlic and brightens up the entire dish.

With our starters we have been sipping the spry, citrusy Châteaueau Haut-Rian Semillon/Sauv Blanc \$8/30. Wilson refers to it somewhat jokingly as a "porch-white," and in the thick muggy midst of our Minnesota July, I take her meaning. Their wine list may be small, but it is no afterthought—each has been carefully selected to accompany specific dishes and add interest to the evening. As we transition to our appetizers, we move to the Dolcetto d'Alba Vigneto Vantrino Albarella (\$11/40). With a big nose of dark fruits and a little black pepper, it was



nevertheless food-friendly.

If you haven't yet had the pleasure of 128 Café's BBQ Baby Back Ribs (\$18 half/30 full), they are a must-try when paired with the rich, Ridge "East Bench" Zinfandel (\$46). A side of sweet and spicy barbeque sauce is wonderful for drizzling over the accompanying mashed potatoes and sautéed vegetables, but the meat is flavorful enough to be enjoyed plain. I don't order ribs enough to have a "technique" down, but Wilson lends me her favorite method—flipping them over and removing the bones from the back. If you're looking to impress your companions with your excellent table manners, I'd suggest you do the same. If not, by all means pick them up and have at; the ribs have quite the reputation here, and I don't think anyone in the dining room would judge you.

We also tried the Pork Tenderloin with roasted potatoes, mustard greens, grilled peach and a bacon and molasses vinaigrette (\$20). It has all the makings of a masterpiece if only the vinaigrette were a bit more assertive. The other flavors of this dish meld so well, it almost needs just a little something to stand out. That said, I realize that I have been consistently praising the kitchen for their restraint, and this entrée is perfectly in line with what you're really looking for when you go to the 128: an unfussy experience that feels more like a food-spa than the typical Twin Cities hotspot. This tenderloin is downright homey, and to be honest, sometimes that's exactly what you need.

Dessert almost felt superfluous at this point, but should you have room, a small dish of Izzy's vanilla ice cream and a fudge brownie, topped with crumbled pecan brittle, is the perfect finishing touch. If you're on a budget, Sunday through Thursday a three-course dinner is just \$25 if you stick to the daily specials. But even on the weekends, the 128 Café is a delightfully affordable date spot. The 128 also participates in Dining out for Life and other charitable events. For more information about how to participate, or to make reservations, visit [128cafe.net](http://128cafe.net). ▣

#### 128 Café

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(Facing page, from left) 128 Café's BBQ Baby Back Ribs; Pork Tenderloin with Roasted Potatoes. (This page, clockwise) Ginger-Soy Sirloin Skewers; Izzy's vanilla ice cream and a fudge brownie, topped with crumbled pecan brittle; Jill Wilson in the 128 Café food truck. (Below) Roast Garlic Apple Chutney with goat cheese, apple slices and grilled baguette. Photos by Mike Hnida







# GROWING LOTS

URBAN FARMING WITH JAKE SCHULTZ & STEFAN MEYER



Little farm in the city. Hot sun, warm chicken, and ripe ground cherries. Photos by Joy Summers

THE CLANGING OF a commuter train rolling past rang in my ears as I stood near a crop field in what was once a parking lot, smelling the moist earth and hot asphalt. I was soon joined by Jake Schultz and Stefan Meyer, two of the metro area's few gay urban farmers.

Meyer grew up in rural Minnesota on a conventional turkey farm and explained that he has always been involved in farming, in one way or another. Schultz had a very different upbringing, as a city kid outside of Milwaukee. It was while studying at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh he realized that his passion for food and sustainability after reading the "Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan.

Utilizing permaculture, a method of growing and sustaining people, animals and plant life in balance with nature, Growing Lots Urban Farm has two lots that grow an array of produce. They work with the area community, teaching neighborhood children about their chickens, utilizing waste from nearby businesses, such as Coastal Seafoods, for

compost and even setting up giant bins to catch rain water for drip irrigation systems, so that little to nothing goes to waste.

Meyer and Schultz are anxious to share their vision with the world, hoping to be able to reach out to other gay urban farmers to form an eventual coalition. "It's really rare. We haven't met many others. It's easier to find lesbian farmers than gay men," Schultz mused. I asked him why he thought that was the case.

"I think a lot of us left rural places for the city, for the community; the safety... It's often the case that we come in to the neighborhoods and clean up, bring in our culture - it makes sense that we would do this as well," added Meyer.

"We just need more of the granola gays," said Schultz.

"Did you just say 'granola gays?'" Meyer laughed.

Schultz just grinned, "Sure. I do think that some men are more concerned about working out, moisturizer, clothes, than what we actually put into our bodies."







Jake Schultz, urban farmer and potential 'granola gay' organizer? Photos by Joy Summers



Whatever the term, it's a valid point that most of us urban dwellers would benefit by being closer to our food sources. The juxtaposition of fertile soil churning out baby eggplants, gobs of heirloom tomatoes and a confounding ground cherry breed that tasted like a bursting pineapple with the nearby traffic noise was oddly comforting. In addition to their produce, sold mainly through CSA shares, Schultz also has a bakery, Black Paws, and can be found at the Midtown Farmer's Market every Saturday.

The chickens produce beautifully pale green- and brown-shelled eggs. Unfortunately, they were informed the day after I visited that due to zoning restrictions the birds would have to be relocated, a sad

day for the farm.

From classes to a culinary CSA specializing in unique produce, Growing Lots will hopefully continue to expand and share their sustenance with a grateful neighborhood. To find out more, visit them on the Facebook pages for Growing Lots Urban Farm and Black Paws Community Supported Bakery. ▣

**Exclusive Online Content at [www.lavendermagazine.com](http://www.lavendermagazine.com):**

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## [ BIG GAY NEWS ]

by Bradley Traynor

**BIG GAY NEWS**  
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### New Poll Shows Generation Gap Over NY Gay Marriage

Politico reports that a new Washington Post-ABC poll shows that support for New York's recent decision to legalize same-sex marriage depends largely on the age of the respondent. Overall, potential voters supported legalization 50-46 percent. However, those under 30 supported the measure by a 2-1 margin while senior citizens disapproved of the measure by 60%.

### Anti-Gay Marriage Group Files Legal Challenge to New York's Law

The New York Daily News reports that just 24 hours after same-sex marriage became legal in New York, an anti-gay marriage group, New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedom, has filed a lawsuit to overturn the legislation. The group claims the state legislature violated transparency laws in passing the legislation. The state has yet to respond to the lawsuit.

### California Gay Marriage Ban Case to be Heard Sept. 6

The Associated Press reports that the California Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing for September 6th to consider whether supporters of the state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage have the authority to fight court rulings on the initiative even when the governor and attorney general refuse to appeal.

### Openly Gay Man Is First Confirmed as U.S. Judge

The New York Times reports that former Clinton administration lawyer J. Paul Oetken became the first openly gay man to be confirmed as a federal judge in July. Oetken was confirmed in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 80 to 13. Following the President's signature, Oetken will take his seat as a federal judge in Manhattan.

### Gay Pride Returns to Jerusalem

Haaretz reports that Israel's GLBT community marched in Jerusalem's annual gay pride parade in July. In previous years, the march has been marked by violence. The march also marked the second anniversary of a shooting at a gay youth center in Tel Aviv.

### Obama Nominates Fourth Openly Gay Judicial Candidate

Politico reports that President Obama nominated openly gay Michael Fitzgerald to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. This is the fourth time Obama has nominated an openly gay candidate to the federal courts.



**Navy Censures Officer for Anti-Gay Hazing**  
**UPI reports that former US Navy commander**  
 Liam Bruen has been censured by the Navy for allowing a subordinate to be labeled with gay slurs. Ensign Steve Crowston filed a complaint after he was given anti-gay nicknames as a call sign. The Navy later found that Bruen "failed to exercise appropriate leadership and demonstrated a profound lack of judgment." Bruen abruptly retired from the navy in May.

**Homelessness More Common Among Gay, Bisexual Teens**

Medical News Today reports that a new study in the American Journal of Public Health shows that homelessness is much more common among gay, lesbian and bisexual teens than their heterosexual counterparts. The study included over 6300 Massachusetts teens. Twenty-five percent of gay and lesbian teens were found to be homeless while only 3% of heterosexual teens reported being homeless.



**BIG GAY NEWS EXCLUSIVE:**  
**Minneapolis City Council to Redefine Gender Identity Ordinance**

by Ellen Krug

A proposed ordinance making its way to the Minneapolis City Council will revise the definition of "Gender Identity" and provide transgender individuals with stand alone protection against discrimination. At present, gender identity protection is buried within an ordinance protecting sexual orientation. GLBT community members have complained that the presently worded ordinance can be confusing. Others seek a specific transgender-protection ordinance to ensure that Minneapolis retains its status as one of the most welcoming cities in the country. Transgender advocates believe the change is necessary to make it easier for everyone—business owners, landlords, and anyone else subject to prohibitions against discrimination—to understand exactly what "gender identity" means.

Under the proposed ordinance, "Gender Identity" is defined as "a person's actual or perceived self-image or identity as expressed through dress, appearance, behavior, speech or similar characteristics, whether or not traditionally associated with the person's physical anatomy, chromosomal sex, or sex at birth."

According to Phil Duran, Legal Director for OutFront Minnesota, the proposed re-definition is not intended to expand any existing rights. Instead, it is intended to make it easier for everyone to understand the existing law. A final hearing on the revised ordinance is set for August 5.

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# SUING SCHOOL

The Anoka-Hennepin School District is being sued to address “pervasive” anti-gay bullying in the district and for its policy that requires staff to remain neutral when discussing issues related to sexual orientation, which some have characterized as a “gag policy.”

The students represented in the case were verbally and physically harassed for their actual or perceived sexual orientation or when they did not conform to stereotypical gender roles, causing some to transfer schools or drop out. The complaint alleges the district did not respond adequately to the bullying.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court on July 21 by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Faegre & Benson, LLP on behalf of five current and former students from the district who have suffered persistent anti-GLBT harassment in school, which the groups claim was exacerbated by the policy.

The Sexual Orientation Curriculum Policy states that district staff “shall remain neutral on matters regarding sexual orientation” and “such matters are best addressed within individual family homes, churches, or community organizations.”

The “discriminatory” policy leaves GLBT students out in the cold, said Ilona Turner, the NCLR’s lead attorney on the case.

“The simple existent of the policy sends a stigmatizing message to LGBT students that being gay is so wrong and so shameful that it can’t even be mentioned in schools,”

Turner asserted. “It keeps teachers and staff from responding effectively when they see harassment of LGBT students going on because they are not sure how they can respond.”

The SPLC began an investigation in November 2010 after an alarming number of students in the district took their own lives and community members reported incidences of anti-gay persecution, according to Sam Wolfe, the SPLC’s lead attorney on the case.

Wolfe said the investigation showed the district has a “serious problem” with harassment. He explained the district’s response has been insufficient and continuing to stand behind the neutrality policy alienates GLBT students.

“You can’t have a welcoming environment when you have a policy that singles out LGBT students,” Wolfe stated. “You’ve got to get rid of that policy.”

Currently, the school board is not willing to change the policy, according to Mary Olson, the district’s director of communications and public relations. She said the policy reflects the needs of the community, which remains “divided” on GLBT issues, and does not prevent staff from discussing GLBT-related matters.

“The [school] board feels strongly that

the policy is appropriate for our district,” Olson said. “We object to it being characterized as being a gag order.”

A statement was released on the school district’s website the day before the lawsuit was filed urging the NCLR and the SPLC to work with them on developing more training for students and staff to support GLBT students.

But without getting rid of the policy, Turner said, the district cannot implement effective training to protect all students.

“Their response to stick by the gag policy is hypocritical,” Turner said. “There is no way to have anti-bullying programs when you can’t say the word gay.”

The U.S. Department of Justice and Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights have been in discussions with the district to address the need for further guidance on GLBT-related topics, the district’s statement says.

The school district is addressing the matter and will continue to improve their resources to best serve students and staff, according to Olson.

“We are very concerned about it,” Olson emphasized. “We are definitely going to be ratcheting up our efforts to make sure all our students are safe.”

The district recently added information to their website to help students and staff deal with GLBT issues in school, including a brochure by the union Education Minnesota, which outlines how staff may deal with conflicts involving anti-GLBT slurs or other forms of bullying. □

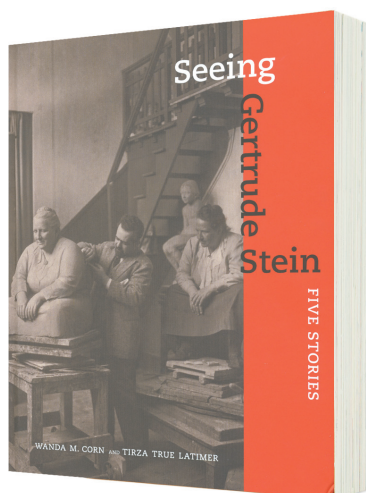


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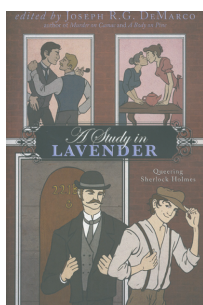
### *Seeing Gertrude Stein: Five Stories*

Wanda M. Corn and Tirza True Latimer

Most think of Stein as a wordsmith, and have some knowledge of her broad collection of artists of the day, but *Five Stories*, a companion to the exhibit of the same name currently running at the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco, explores the visual Stein. She kept photos and artifacts from childhood on, and was acutely aware of herself as she was posed for photographs, paintings, and sculptures by outstanding artists of the day, from Picasso to George Platt Lynes. Stein asserted, “A writer should write with his eyes, and a painter paint with his ears. Five topics, “Picturing Gertrude,” “Domestic Stein,” “Art of Friendship,” “Celebrity Stein,” and “Legacies,” each containing 4-8 essays, help the reader see beyond the type.

University of California Press

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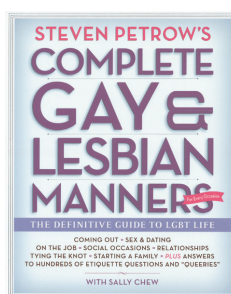
### *A Study in Lavender: Queering Sherlock Holmes*

Ed. Joseph R.G. DeMarco

Over the years many writers have tried their hands at enlarging the Sherlock Holmes canon with their own works, Laurie R. King’s *Mary Russell* series is just one example. *Lavender* offers 11 niftily crafted and nuanced stories involving Holmes and the faithful Watson – sometimes clueless concerning his companion’s predilections, sometimes himself yearning for the master. Vincent Kovar’s *The Bride and the Bachelors* offers an almost O’Henry twist in its surprising solution, while Ruth Sims’s *Whom God Destroys* is told from the point of view of a serial killer who deems “Old Jack”–the Ripper–“overrated.” Editor DeMarco’s *The Adventure of the Movie Never Made* posits a fifteenth Holmes film with Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Mary Gordon–and a homicidal child actor.

Lethe Press

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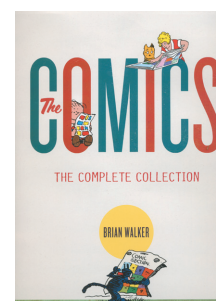
### *Seven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners*

Steven Petrow, with Sally Chew

Citing statesman-philosopher Edmund Burke’s “Manners are of more importance than laws. Upon them, in great measure, the laws depend,” author Petrow covers every conceivable social situation that one might encounter as a gay person, as a non-gay person dealing with gays—with your bartender, your coat-check person and parking attendant. The Fleur de Lys Goblet Napkin Fold? Page 277. Invited to be a sperm donor? Page 204. Addressing Invitations to Lesbian and Gay Couples? Page 261. Serious Illness? Page 352. In short, you hold in your hands some 400+ pages of “The Definitive Guide to LGBT Life,” all sharply observed and candidly expressed. If something has been left unanswered, or you have a personal question, Petrow himself awaits at GayManners.com

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### *The Comics – The Complete Collection*

Brian Walker

This handsome volume combines Walker’s previous *The Comics: Before 1945* and *The Comics: Since 1945* comprising 672 pages and some 1,300 images. Walker knows the comics thoroughly, as cartoonist, scholar, and founder and former director of the Museum of Cartoon Art. Following in his father Mort’s footsteps, Walker continues as part of the team producing the *Beetle Bailey* and *Hi and Lois* strips. Of course, all the big guns are represented, George Herriman’s *Krazy Kat*, Walt Kelly’s *Pogo*, Scott Adams’s *Dilbert*, Al Capp’s *Li’l Abner*, with many new strips like Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott’s accurately titled *Baby Blues*, Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman’s wry *Zits*, and Ray Billingsly’s politically cutting *Curtis*, all enhanced by Walker’s well-researched and analytical text.

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#### LEGAL NOTICE

**If you used a personal credit or debit card at Monte Carlo Restaurant between November 23, 2008, and December 27, 2010, you may be entitled to benefits from a class-action settlement.**

A settlement has been reached with Monte Carlo Restaurant, Inc. ("Defendant") in a class-action lawsuit about not removing the expiration date from credit and debit card receipts. The settlement provides vouchers for food and beverages up to a value of \$30 to people who submit valid claim forms.

The United States District Court for the District of Minnesota will have a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement so that vouchers can be issued. Those included may ask for a voucher, exclude themselves from the settlement, object to it, or ask to speak at the hearing. For a detailed notice and claim form go to:

[www.MonteCarloSettlement.com](http://www.MonteCarloSettlement.com).

#### WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

The lawsuit claims that Defendant violated the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681c(g)) when Monte Carlo printed expiration dates on customer receipts. The Defendant does not admit any wrongdoing, and the parties agreed to the settlement to avoid the costs and risks of a trial.

#### WHO'S INCLUDED?

The settlement includes anyone who used a personal credit or debit card at Monte Carlo between November 23, 2008, and December 27, 2010, and received a copy of Monte Carlo's receipt.

#### WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement will provide vouchers to those who submit valid claim forms, good for food and beverages, up to \$30 in value, excluding taxes and tip, at the restaurant known as Monte Carlo, which is located at 219 - 3rd Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

#### HOW DO YOU ASK FOR A VOUCHER?

Get a claim form at [www.MonteCarloSettlement.com](http://www.MonteCarloSettlement.com). Fill out the form and mail it to the address on the form so that it is postmarked by October 3, 2011. Vouchers will be mailed after the Court grants final approval to the settlement.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

You may choose whether to stay in the Class or not. If you submit a claim form or do nothing, you are choosing to stay in the Class. This means you will be bound by all orders and judgments of the Court, and you will not be able to sue or continue to sue the Defendant about the legal claims resolved by this settlement. If you stay in the Class you may object to the settlement if you do not like some part of it. You or your own lawyer may also ask to appear and speak at the hearing, at your own cost, but you don't have to. Objections and requests to appear are due by October 3, 2011. If you do not want to stay in the Class, you must submit a request for exclusion by October 3, 2011. The detailed notice explains how to file a claim, object, ask to appear and speak, or request exclusion.

#### THE COURT'S FAIRNESS HEARING.

The Court will hold a hearing in this case, known as *Curtis Zaun, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated v. Monte Carlo Restaurant, Inc.*, No. 10-CV-4693 (JSM), on November 3, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. to consider whether to approve the settlement; a request by the lawyers representing Class members for attorney fees, costs, and expenses and a payment to the Class Representatives who helped the lawyers on behalf of the entire Class. These fees, costs, expenses, and payments will be paid separately by the Defendant and will not reduce the amount of benefits available to Class members. If the settlement is approved, it will release the Defendant from all claims listed in the Settlement Agreement. A copy of the Settlement Agreement is available at the website.

#### HOW DO YOU GET MORE INFORMATION?

To learn more, visit the website, or write to Monte Carlo Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 2004, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2004.

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Tutankhamun. Photo by Sandro Vannini

**Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs** — To tour National Geographic's King Tut exhibit is to immerse one's self in not merely a display of ancient Egyptian relics, but to tune into remnants of psychic energy of a vanished culture and spiritual system from over 3,000 years ago.

The 'Boy Pharaoh' ascended to the throne in the 1300s BCE at about age 10. He is credited with boldly controversial reforms such as ending the worship of the god Aten and restoring the primacy of the god Amun.

The cause of King Tut's death at age 19 is also a matter of controversy. Some say it was an accident. Some say it was jealous brothers or sickness sprung genetically from his incestuous family history.

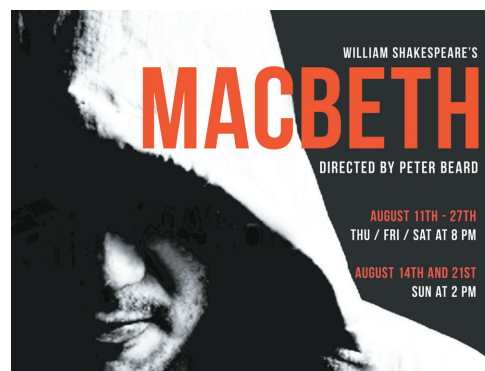
After his death, to prepare him for the Afterlife, during a 90 day mummification period consisting of various rituals, Tut's internal organs were placed in four Canopic coffinettes placed in a Canopic container. You can see the coffinette that contained his stomach and some of the stoppers or lids for these in the exhibit.

Ancient Egyptians believed that items like some of those featured -shoes, a bed, a game box, and writing equipment- would be of use in the Afterlife. The Science Museum displays compelling funerary figurines of servants and supernatural figures like one of the god Horus's sons, that were also believed to somehow become animated in order to serve the monarch in the next realm.

British archaeologist Howard Carter unearthed Tut's tomb in 1922. David Mauk's celestial music score, which flows through the exhibit, has a luminous way revivifying the haunting power of ancient Egyptian spirituality. • **Through Sept. 5** • **Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul** • (800) 221-9444 • [www.smm.org](http://www.smm.org)

**Macbeth** — James Napoleon Stone has impressed with leading roles in the gay-themed plays, *Bent* and *Jeffrey*. He now performs Shakespeare's grisly tragedy for Theatre Coup d'Etat.

Stone says *Macbeth* "makes the choices of killing his king and friends in attempt to solidify his crown. If we see him dealing with the consequences and guilt from those choices truthfully, and if we see a man who is struggling to live with the world he has created and is 'bound in saucy doubts and fears', and we watch him fail mightily despite his best truthful efforts to succeed, then we can connect." • **Through Aug. 27** • **Lowry Lab, 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul** • (800) 838-3006 • [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)



**Billy Wilder Film Series** — Perhaps no director of Hollywood's Golden Age more fully mastered the art of comedy than Billy Wilder (1906-2002). He was deliciously ironic and his films' comic pacing is impeccable. The Heights and Trylon series includes the darkly satirical *Sunset Boulevard* (1950), the kinetic *One, Two, Three* (1961) and the drag milestone, *Some Like It Hot* (1959). A Jew who fled Hitler's Germany, Wilder understood the perils, the pathos, and the precious joy of life. • **Through Aug. 28** at two locations • **Heights Theater, 3951 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights** • (763) 789-9079 • [www.heightstheater.com](http://www.heightstheater.com) • **Trylon Microcinema, 3258 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls.** • (612) 424-5468 • [www.take-up.org](http://www.take-up.org)



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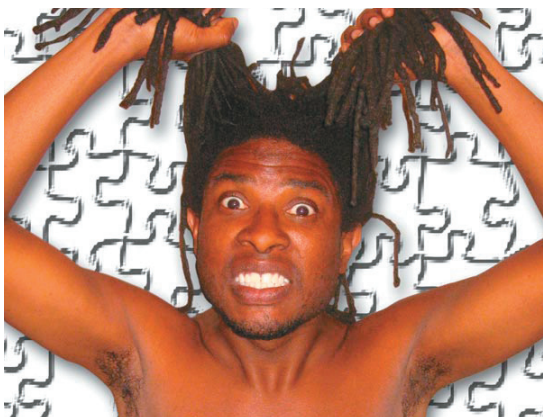
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[ STAGE ]



*Bluehouse.* Photo Courtesy of CPR Artists and Entertainment. (Bluehouse's management)



*Nightmare in Bakersfield.* Photo by Mathieu Brooks

counselors who go to bizarre and fruitless lengths to turn gay people straight, while suppressing their own homoerotic urges. • **Through Aug. 14 • Various Times and Venues in Minneapolis-St. Paul locations • (866) 811-4111 • [www.fringefestival.org](http://www.fringefestival.org)**

***Black Hearts Burlesque*** — Co-producer Elecktra Cute says "we describe ourselves as modern, sexy, and queer." Drag queen Mistress Victoria DeVille will host Lucy Furr and Boiesque from Switch the Boi Wonder. You'll get to see a demo of 'shibari', a Japanese rope bondage technique. To heat things up even more will be fire dancers, Fiona Flameteaser and Ophelia Flame, along with Sweet Lily Bee, Coco Dupree, Musette the Mistress of Mischief, Josephine Belle, and co-producer Dahlia Dulce. • **Sat., Aug. 20 at 8pm • Loring Theater, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. • (612) 353-6781 • [www.loringtheater.com](http://www.loringtheater.com)**

***Dark Dark Dark accompanies Spies*** — Minneapolis's chamber folk sextet, Dark Dark Dark, is known for its connection to New Orleans jazz and Eastern European and American folk legacies. They will perform their new score to Fritz Lang's 1928 expressionistic masterpiece, *Spies*, just like in the old days when silent films had live accompaniment. Lang's style was groundbreakingly psychological and socio-political. Being Jewish, he fled Germany in 1932 and thwarted Joseph Goebbels's attempt to exploit his talents for Nazi propaganda purposes. • **Mon., Aug. 22 at 7pm • Free Admission • Summer Music and Movies 2011 • Walker Art Center/Mpls Sculpture Garden, 1750 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. • (612) 375-7600 • [www.walkerart.org](http://www.walkerart.org)**

***Minnesota Fringe Festival*** — The contrast between embracing your gayness and nailing yourself into the closet coffin can be seen in two Fringe shows. In Les Kuykendall's autobiographical *Nightmare in Bakersfield*, he attends his boyfriend's 20th high school reunion where the couple humorously deals with homophobia. In *Ex-Gays* Sheila Regan and Carl Swanson give revealing performances as religious camp

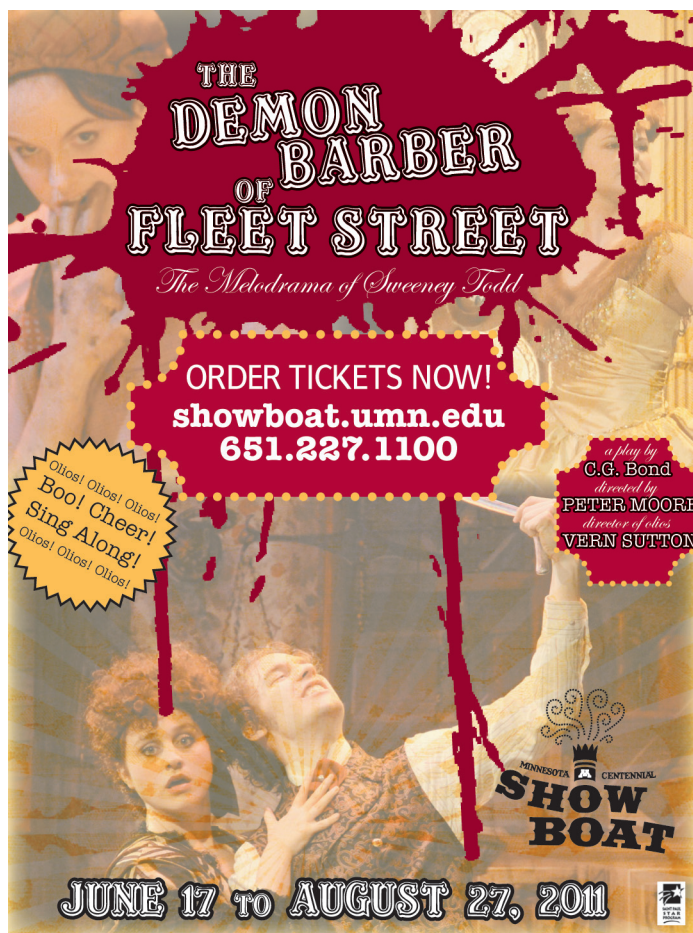
[ MOVIE ]



Writer and director, Miranda July, on the set of *THE FUTURE*. Photo Courtesy of Roadside Attractions

***The Future*** — Filmmaker Miranda July moves the midlife crisis up a decade. Cerebral Jason (Hamish Linklater) and bewildered Sophie (July), both 30-somethings, have been living together for awhile and to symbolize the depth of their commitment they plan to adopt a cat. But when Marshall (David Warshofsky) -sensual, studly, and older- enters her life in a truly odd way, Sophie awakens sexually. An inspired and imaginative twist on monogamy v. desire laced with absurdist touches. The moon counsels Jason. A disabled cat narrates. Recall that in July's husband's gay-themed gem, *Beginners*, a darling dog plays a major role. • **Currently playing • Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Ave., Mpls. • (612) 392-0402 • [www.landmarktheatre.com](http://www.landmarktheatre.com)**





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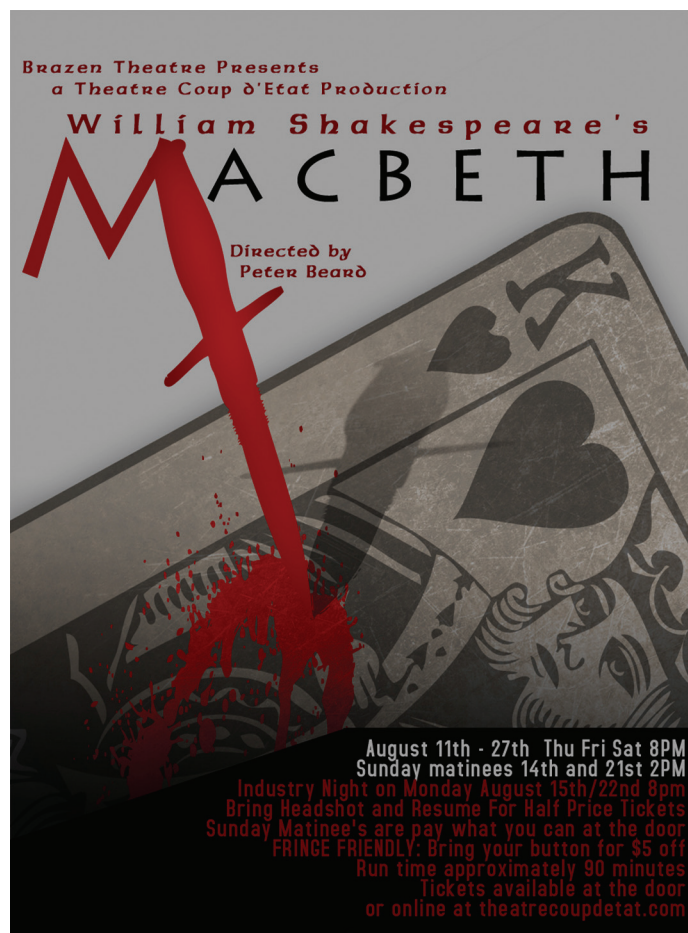
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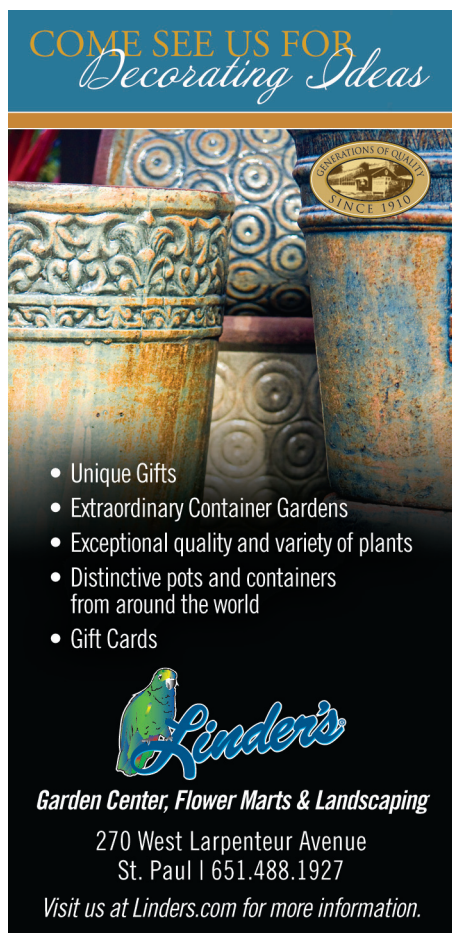
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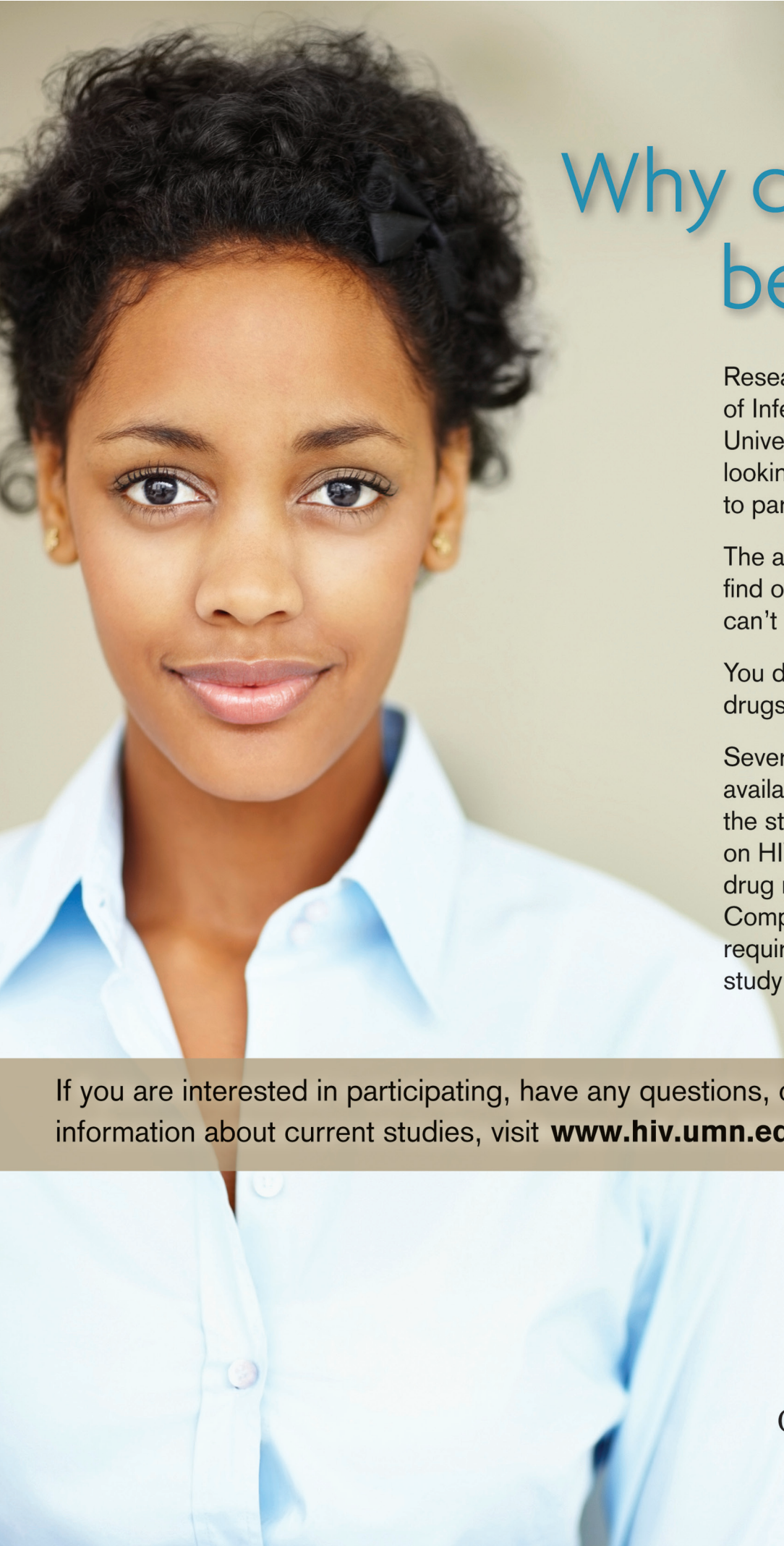
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JULY 17

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I DON'T CELEBRATE my birthday. Well, okay, I do, but not because I like to. I feel awkward in situations where everyone's looking at me. These are the moments I inevitably have an itch on my nose or something. Accordingly, when I do celebrate my birthday, it's somewhere I feel comfortable—where I feel in my element. Hello, D'Amico Kitchen at Le Méridien Chambers Hotel Minneapolis!

Just call her Chambers. She's a stunning venue at one of the best locations in town: Hennepin and 9th. For us Uptown folks, the location is perfect—it's downtown without being too downtown. It's in summer-walking distance to Loring Park, across the street from theatre superstar The Orpheum, and seconds away from some of the hottest social spots in town.

In addition to being a socially savvy hotel with the accommodations to match, Chambers boasts an ultra-chic rooftop indoor bar and wrap-around balcony where drinks at sunset parties flow deliciously strong. This sky bar is frequently host to a personal favorite Twin Cities social occasion: the Mix party, from promoter Dave Em (join the "Gay Twin Cities" Facebook group to find out more about this event).

Another of Chambers' crowning achievements: the best court-

yard/patio in town: Eden. Complete with cabanas reminiscent of South Beach, a dazzling fire pit, and spot-on landscaping, Eden serves up the finest outside atmosphere around—an unmistakable venue for posh summer parties. The outside is impressive, but it didn't get all the lovin'. D'Amico Kitchen at Chambers' interior, embossed as an ethereal all-white Palace of Chic, is a can't-miss environment in which to enjoy a martini, share an intimate meal, or throw a smart soirée.

After I co-hosted my monthly dinner club here a couple weeks prior, it was a no-brainer that Chambers would be the perfect venue for my birthday. General Manager Michelle Hummer executed the perfect layout for my celebration, the staff was flawless in their expertise in service and on the menu, the drinks were delicious, and the company, fantastic.

**Where:** D'Amico Kitchen at Chambers;  
901 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis


**Scene:** Trendy casual to downtown chic

**Drink of choice:** Blood Orange Cosmo ■




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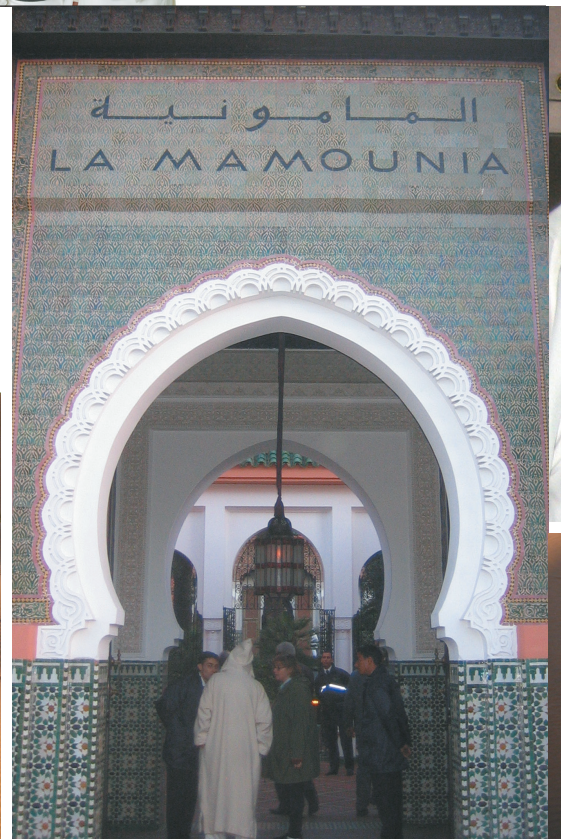
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Photos by Kim Havey

# MARRAKECH IN MINNEAPOLIS

Distance from home provides the opportunity to experience hospitality in new ways. A different location, be it your backyard or a different region of the world, gives us new perspectives on entertaining. Kim Havey doesn't hesitate to share his travels with friends. His most recent trip to Morocco was the theme for his latest get-together; call it Marrakech in Minneapolis.

Kim is master of the fast, fun, and friendly party. Playful themes, email invitations and simple expectations are keys to his continued successes. More of an open house than private event, a party at Kim's is always a blast.

Adorned from head-to-toe in loose-fitting white linen clothes and pointed-toed slippers, Kim's attire befitted the theme (he brought back so many outfits he probably

paid tariffs). With views of Hennepin Avenue from his 5th floor condominium, Kim and his friends gathered on a steamy summer evening to celebrate his return, and his birthday.

Guests arrived through the open door and were greeted by vacation slides on the television. The photographs of his travels to 'The Land of the Farthest West' were awash with brilliant blue skies, whitewashed stuc-

co, golden sand, deep pinks & violet (the famous colors of Morocco). Kim's eye for detail tied in his usual space, right down to the arched glass doors on the kitchen cabinetry that recall the Moorish arches of Marrakech.

Many party guests arrived in costume like their host wearing fabulous wraps and hats. The most popular accessory seemed to be the fez, the cylindrical felt chapeau that often sports a tassel. Not since the last Shriners Convention have so many fezes been in the same room. Beautiful barista Louise poured colorful cocktails to nourish the guests. One cocktail was aptly named the Feztini, a blue concoction with a tasty bite. Accompanying the cocktails was a selection





of wines, mostly hostess gifts from previous parties. A simple table of appetizers kept everyone nibbling, with accents of lemon and mint on traditional Mediterranean foods like hummus & pita along with exotic flavors like curry.

What makes Kim Havey's parties so easy (for guests & hosts alike) is their simplicity. They start early, around happy hour, so it doesn't tie up a whole evening, unless you choose to let it. The guests are notified well in advance to get on their calendars, via e-mail invite. The food is kept very simple, finger foods and dips, so refilling and clean-up is a snap. And most importantly there are no expectations, so guests may come as they are and feel free to leave when they'd like. ■

### BRINGING YOUR TRAVEL EXPERIENCES INTO YOUR ENTERTAINING KEEPS FRESH IDEAS FLOWING, CONSIDER THESE TIPS:

- Look for inexpensive trinkets or clothes that can help complete a theme. Local markets are wonderful resources.
- Take wonderful photographs, even just a few. When you return you can place them in frames around the rooms you're entertaining in or simply play them on a video monitor like Kim did.
- Take note of flavor on your travels. A key ingredient can help carry your party theme.

The signature drink of Kim's soiree, the bold color on this cocktail adds instant décor.

#### FEZTINI

This tasty cocktail was served at the party. It takes a day to prep, but it's worth the wait.

#### In a shaker combine:

2oz. white rum  
1oz. pineapple juice  
½ oz. Blue Curacao  
½ oz. lime juice

Stir and strain into a cocktail glass.

Garnish with a sour cherry.

Mint is one of the signature flavors found throughout Morocco and by combining it with orange liqueur, it brightens the taste buds.

#### GREEN TEA MARTINI

#### In a shaker combine:

2oz. mint green tea vodka  
1oz. Grand Marnier  
1oz. fresh lemon juice

Stir and strain into a cocktail glass.

Garnish with a fresh mint sprig or lemon wedge.





# FRENCH KISS

## Travels in Aquitaine, France

"VER-R-Y DANGEREUSE," intones Jamail. We're visiting his palombiere—hunting cabin—deep in the forests of Aquitaine in Southwest France, where he organizes male-bonding parties to pop at "savage pigeons"—aka wild doves. (Turns out, the "dangereuse" part is simply the trap from which they'll spring, rather than a reprise of an Alfred Hitchcock movie).

No shoot tonight, however. The "pop" we hear is the cork from a bottle—the first of several that will accompany the rustic feast Jamail prepares for guests in his cozy cab. And no—no pigeon on the menu. He's substituted chicken stew. But first, some pate de foie gras, a specialty of Aquitaine (along with truffles, caviar, and other convincing reasons that life here is good). Then, a heap of snails, for the pigeon shooter also prides himself as hunter of escargot), Pop, another cork, and then the cheese. Finally, another regional specialty, plums. (Some end up as Armagnac.)

We're on a quest to discover the secret gems of Aquitaine, and palombieres rank high among them. Beatrice and her husband, Jean-Philippe, are two more in the cast of characters whose delighted-to-meet-you welcomes are far more exuberant than the cool kiss-kiss of Paris...the folks who invoke those priceless "Remember ....?" memories long after the passport expires.

The couple looked at a decaying mill and saw an opportunity. They scrubbed and hammered it into a B&B that goes one better: an indoor pool, hamam and sauna. Well, two better: homemade cherry jam on our breakfast baguettes, accompanying coffee bowls as big as birdbaths.

Another is Fabrice, the Michelin-starred chef who offers cooking lessons to



(Clockwise from above) The winemaking of the Sauternes. Wine tasting in Aquitaine. The "deconstructed" breakfast cooking lesson, Gascon.







(Above) Horse carts in the Medieval town of Neroc. (Right) Sebastien's family castle, Chateau Roquetallade. Photos by Carla Waldemar



guests of the beyond-charming 18th-century Chateau Lassalle. Punch-drunk from an overnight flight, we flopped into the garden's pool, then lapped up an alfresco dinner of Gascony's specialties—foie gras prominent among them—as warm-up for next morning's class.

For it, Fabrique says, "I imagine breakfast in Gascony" and then deconstructs it: its baguette, covered here with foie gras (Do we detect a dining theme?), sided by an onion confit jam; orange juice now glorified as orange/carrot/ginger; and, instead of Lipton's, a "teabag" containing bits of ham, mushrooms, breadcrumbs. Max slices the foie, Michelle chops the onions, while I melt—literally, the chocolate for our dessert, and figuratively, in sheer, gluttonous pleasure.

Sated, we head for Neroc, a sweet medieval town that looks like the backdrop for a Renaissance Fair. We stroll under half-timbered buildings and the formidable castle of King Henry IV. An unexpected highlight: the trash collection. Here, it's still done by cart and clapping horse.

From one horse to 2CV, or deux chevaux (two horses), the vintage, super-cool Beetle-like cars (mine was pink) which l'Echappee Gasconne (Gascony Escape) rents to tour the countryside, amid waves and bonjours from the less fortunate. Didier, our lead driver, guides us to visits at artisanal producers—wine, foie gras—then a riverside picnic: bread, charcuterie, cheese, pate, wine: How much more French can you get?

More toys for the boys: First a canoe pad-

dle, then a houseboat cruise down a lazy canal (guided, or do-it-yourself, after a quick tutorial) past columns of stately trees, waterside bistros and markets, waving to fellow boaters as we await our turn at the Baise River's locks.

From the pastoral to the palatial: Sebastien was waiting as we pulled up to his pied-a-terre, Chateau Roquetallade, a 12th-century castle—the quintessential round, four-towered kind kids make in the sand. This one's been in his family for 700 years.

Not that there haven't been renovations: an interior staircase replacing the original ladder to be pulled up in case of attack; windows instead of arrow slits; kitchen appliances to abet the roast-an-ox fireplace. But primarily, the carte-blanche contract of architect/artist Viollet-le-Duc in the 1800s, allowing (nay, encouraging) him to decorate every last surface with a jungle of plants, invent mobile curtains hiding secret doors; and carve many a snarky gargoyle. Sebastien will gladly sell you the wine his estate produces (hey, Bordeaux's just down the road).

Everywhere we dine, Bordeaux wines—simple to complex, affordable to sacred—are venerated. But now we're off to seek the Holy of Holies, the region's legendary Sauternes, sweet and golden as honey. Overnighting in Chateau d'Arche, a Grand Cru Classe winery-cum-hotel, there's a help-yourself bottle of the estate's Sauternes in the lobby. And my room overlooks the fields of Chateau d'Yquem, the collector's top-of-the-top.

Nearby, at the Maison du Sauternes, Helene urges us to try before we buy. Starting

with Duc de Sauternes, a blend composed of drops from each of its 150 members (including Yquem), she defines your particular preference: sweeter? More dry? Affordable (many are) or more dear? We lunch in nearby Rouaillan, in a brasserie offering salade Nicoise, lamb stew and crème brulee for 9 euro—another reason to head for affordable Aquitaine. Or, how about our final dinner on a postcard-pretty square in the gorgeous riverside capital, Bordeaux itself: three courses plus wine for 13—just one more reason to hop aboard Air France (free in-flight wine, may I add) and fall in love with Aquitaine. For information, visit [www.franceguide.com](http://www.franceguide.com) and [www.tourisme-aquitaine.fr/en](http://www.tourisme-aquitaine.fr/en). ▣

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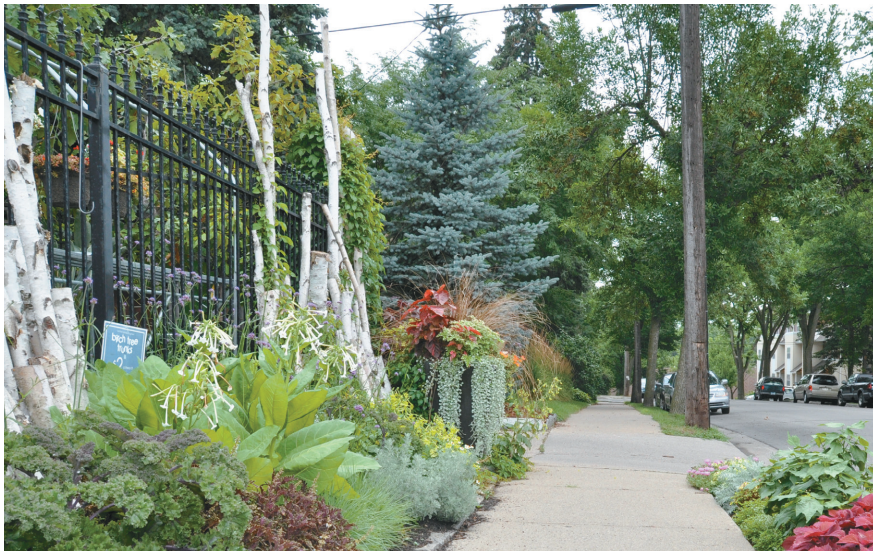
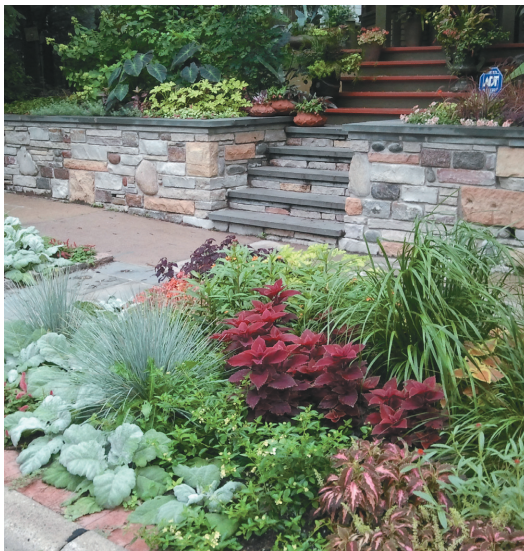
[www.gay-provence.org/en/b-178/bordeaux-and-the-gironde](http://www.gay-provence.org/en/b-178/bordeaux-and-the-gironde)





# LIFE ON THE STREET

## EXTENDING THE GARDEN TO THE BOULEVARD AND ALLEY



Photos Courtesy of Tangletown Gardens

WITH THE DOG days of summer upon us, it might be easy to set down the trowel and call it quits in the garden. Things look good. Spring plantings have matured and the tasty bounty of vegetables that was promised when you planted your starts months ago is making its way to your kitchen. Sure there is watering and a little maintenance, but at this point established gardens are on autopilot, allowing gardeners to sit back to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

But then there are gardeners like me who, while sipping a gin and tonic, tend to fawn over the existing garden, but just can't help but think about the next plot of ground to dig up. But where does one turn once the yard is full of plantings? How about the street? Boulevard and alley gardens are starting to pop up all over the city, offering a challenging, yet beautiful way to extend the garden while beautifying the neighborhood.

So how does one tackle this no man's land between the sidewalk and street where sprigs of turf struggle, or the strip in the

alley that is just a bit too far away from the water hose? Start by preparing the site. Remember that good organic-rich soil is the base of all successful gardens. Peat moss, composted manure, or garden compost are all rich in organic matter and once worked into the soil will help retain water and nutrients for your plantings.

Next, choose plants that will tolerate the less than ideal growing conditions of your particular site. Keep in mind successful choices will likely have to be drought, shade, and often salt, foot, and tire tolerant. If you are unsure, ask a horticulturist at the garden center for suggestions. Assess how the new garden relates to the existing gardens; repeating plants, colors, forms and textures to give the overall landscape cohesion. Be mindful to keep taller plants to a minimum, as city ordinances mandate clear sightlines for safety's sake. Feel free to leave space for annuals and bulbs between perennial groups which will offer bursts of color throughout the season when perennials are not in bloom.

Mulch your plantings to prevent erosion, but also to prevent weeds and preserve moisture for the new garden. Keep the new planting well watered while they are getting established the first season. Even drought tolerant plants will do better if given an extra drink or two in their establishment phase. Wait until spring to give your new plantings a once-per-season slow-release fertilizer (we recommend 18-18-8).

Like any garden, you will have triumphs and tribulations. The sheer nature of growing plants on the street creates plenty of challenges. Use these extra days of summer to take on these challenges, by making the best of the space and plants you have to work with. With a little love and care, life on your street will be abundant with beauty while expressing your own personal style. ▣

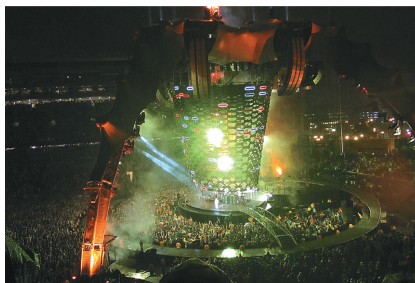
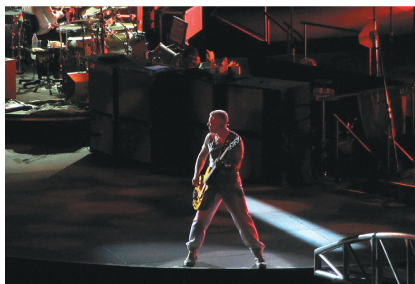
Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and the recently opened Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.



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Photos by Larry Barthel

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OUT  
ON THE TOWN

# AUGUST



*Gen Silent.* Photo by ©2010 MAD STU Media, LLC

*H.M.S. Pinafa*

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**"Nightmare Man Musical"**  
Aug 12 at 4 PM, Aug 13 at 7 PM and Aug 14 at 2:30 PM • Gremlin Theatre, 2400 University Ave. W., St. Paul • For more info, visit [www.facebook.com/nightmaremanmusical?sk=info](http://www.facebook.com/nightmaremanmusical?sk=info) • [www.gremlin-theatre.org](http://www.gremlin-theatre.org)

**Fargo-Moorhead Pride** Aug 11 – 14 • [www.fmpride.com](http://www.fmpride.com)

**"Gen Silent" Documentary Film Screening** Aug 11 • 7 PM • Tickets \$5/Advance, \$5/Seniors, \$10/Door Panel Discussion afterward at 8 PM, Social Hour at Wilde Roast Café at 8:30 PM • St. Anthony Main Theatre, 155 Main St. SE, Mpls • For tickets, contact John Buchholz at 612-703-8671 or [john@twincities-elderlaw.com](mailto:john@twincities-elderlaw.com) • [www.gensilent.com](http://www.gensilent.com)

**Rhythmic Circus presents "Feet Don't Fail Me Now!"** Aug 12 – 13 • 8 PM • Tickets \$24 – \$31 • Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 1-800-982-2787 or visit [www.hennepintheatre-trust.org](http://www.hennepintheatre-trust.org)

**Imperial Court of MN Coronation** Aug 13 – 15 • For more info, visit [www.impcourtmn.com](http://www.impcourtmn.com)

**Museum of Russian Art presents "The Art of Oleg Vassiliev: Discovering 20th Century Russian Masters"** Aug 13 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls • For more info, visit [www.tmora.org](http://www.tmora.org)

**Hennepin Theatre Trust presents Chris Isaak** Aug 13 • 8 PM • Tickets \$42.50 – \$52.50 • State Theatre, Downtown Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit [www.hennepintheatretrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org)

**4th Annual Pins for Pets – Bowl For the Fix!** Aug 13 – 14 • Check in starts at 1 PM, Bowling starts at 3 PM • \$20 registration fee • Flaherty's Arden Bowl • For more info or to register, visit [www.pinsforpets.org](http://www.pinsforpets.org) • [www.mnsnap.org](http://www.mnsnap.org)

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Aug 14 • 6 PM • Lynx vs. Shock • For more info or tickets, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)

**Japanese Lantern Lighting Festival** Aug 14 • 4 PM – Dusk • Como Ordway Memorial Japanese Garden

**Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games** Aug 14 • 3:30 PM/I'd Hit That vs. Full Spectrum, 4:35 PM/Sweet Nuggets vs. Full Spectrum, 5:40 PM/Cedar Inn vs. Foxy Boxes In Soxes, 6:45 PM/Cedar Inn vs. TC Kings • Taft #2: 3:30 PM/The Hassle vs. Coale's Campers, 4:35 PM/Coale's Campers vs. Players, 5:40 PM/BLUSH vs. Where My Pitches At!, 6:45 PM/Master Batters vs. X-Factor • For more info, contact Schmell at [nlwsl\\_schmell@comcast.net](mailto:nlwsl_schmell@comcast.net)

**First Avenue presents Sugarwall** Aug 15 • 8 PM • Tickets \$5/advance, \$7/door • 18+ only • First Avenue, 7th St. Entry, 701 1st Ave. N., Mpls • For more info, [www.first-avenue.com](http://www.first-avenue.com)

**Wisconsin Capital Pride** Aug 20 – 21 • Sat/11 AM – 9 PM, Sun/10 AM – 6 PM • Madison, WI • For more info, visit [www.wisconsincapitalpride.org](http://www.wisconsincapitalpride.org)

**Twin Cities Black Pride** Aug 20 • [www.tblackpride.org](http://www.tblackpride.org)

**Minnesota Lynx Home Game** Aug 20 • 7 PM • Lynx vs. Sparks • Target Center, Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit [www.wnba.com/lynx](http://www.wnba.com/lynx)

**West End Block Party with Taste of West End and Art Festival** Aug 20 • Noon – 10:30 PM • Music events free with West End receipt or \$5 at gate • The Shops at West End, 1621 West End Blvd., St. Louis Park • For more info, visit [www.theshopsatwestend.com](http://www.theshopsatwestend.com)

**Renaissance Festival** Aug 21 – Oct 3 • Shakopee, MN • For more info, visit [www.renaissancefest.com](http://www.renaissancefest.com)

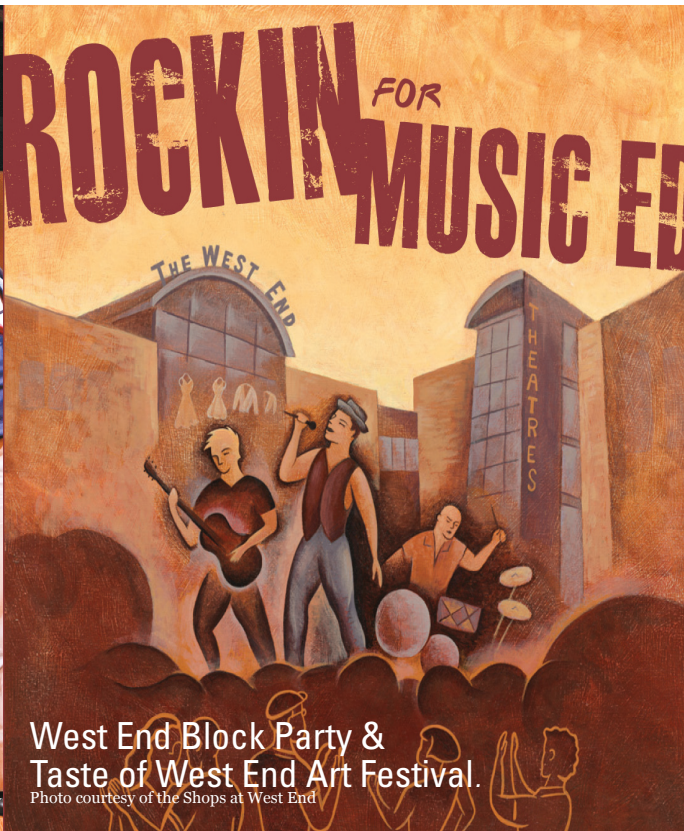
**Barb Ryman CD Release Concert** Aug 21 • 7 PM • Tickets \$10, reserve early as seating is limited • Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater, 810 W. Lake St., Mpls • For more info, call 612-825-8949 • [www.bryantlakebowl.com](http://www.bryantlakebowl.com) • [www.barbryman.com](http://www.barbryman.com)

CALENDAR





Photo by Michael Daniel



## West End Block Party & Taste of West End Art Festival.

Photo courtesy of the Shops at West End



## Blackhearts Burlesque.

Photo courtesy of Blackhearts Burlesque

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**Northern Lights Women's Softball League Games** Aug 21 • 3:30 PM/Master Batters vs. The Hassle, 4:35 PM/OctoFusion vs. Coale's Campers, 5:40 PM/Foxy Boxes In Soxes vs. Cedar Inn, 6:45 PM/Where My Pitches At! vs. BLUSH • For more info, contact Schmell at nlwsl\_schmell@comcast.net

**Minnesota Museum of American Arts presents "Our Treasures: Highlights From the Minnesota Museum of American Art"** Aug 23 – Oct 23 (Tweed exhibition), Aug 2011 – July 2012 general • Tweed hours are Tues/9 AM – 8 PM, Wed – Fri/9 AM – 4:30 PM, Sat – Sun/1 – 5 PM • Tweed Museum of Art, Duluth • For more info about exhibition, visit [www.d.umn.edu/tma](http://www.d.umn.edu/tma) or email Jessari Kuppe at [jkuppe@mmaa.org](mailto:jkuppe@mmaa.org) or 651-797-4057 • [www.mmaa.org](http://www.mmaa.org)

**Louis Marinelli Seminar** Aug 24 • St. Cloud, MN • [www.wmenow.org](http://www.wmenow.org)

**Orpheum Theatre presents "Return to Forever IV"** Aug 24 • 7:30 PM • Tickets \$53.50 – \$63.50 • Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info or tickets, visit [www.hennepintheatre-trust.org](http://www.hennepintheatre-trust.org)

**Junkyard Theater presents "Spell No. 2"** Aug 25 – 27 • Thurs/7 PM, Fri & Sat/10 PM • Tickets \$15/door or \$12/in advance or with Fringe button • Bryant-Lake Bowl Theater, Uptown Mpls • For tickets or more info, call 612-825-8949 or [www.bryantlakebowl.com](http://www.bryantlakebowl.com) • [www.junkyardtheater.com](http://www.junkyardtheater.com)

### ONGOING

**Mu Performing Arts presents "Taiko Blast!"** Through Aug 14 • Thurs/10 PM, Sat/1 PM, Sun/5:30 PM • Mixed Blood Theatre • For information and tickets, visit [www.muperformingarts.org](http://www.muperformingarts.org)

**Circus Juventas presents "GRIMM – Happily Ever After!"** Through Aug 14 • Tickets \$13.50 – \$27.50 • Circus Juventas Big Top, 1270 Montreal Ave., St. Paul • For performance dates/times as well as more info or tickets, call 612-343-3390 or 651-699-8229 • [www.circusjuventas.org](http://www.circusjuventas.org)

**Nina Bliese Gallery presents "Nanci Yermakoff – Transparent Spaces"** Through Sept 9 • Gallery hours Tues – Fri/Noon – 4 PM, or by appointment • Nina Bliese Gallery, 225 S. 6th St., Ground Floor, Mpls • For more info, call 612-332-2978 or visit [www.ninabliesegallery.com](http://www.ninabliesegallery.com)

**"Shades of Red: The Evolution of Early Soviet Art"** Through Sept 15 • The Museum of Russian Art, 5500 Stevens Ave. S., Mpls • Hours are Mon – Fri 10 AM to 5 PM, Sat 10 AM – 4 PM and Sun 1 – 5 PM • Admission is \$7/Adults • [www.tmora.org](http://www.tmora.org)

**Hennes Art Company presents "Abstract Expressionism – The AB EX Show"** Through Sept 30 • Gallery Hours Mon – Sat/10 AM – 5 PM • Hennes Art Company, 1607 Hennepin Ave., Mpls • For more info, call 612-436-2077 or visit [www.hennesart.com](http://www.hennesart.com)

**Brave New Workshop presents "Obama Mia: or The Real Housewives of Abbottabad"** Through Oct 1 • Thurs/8 PM/\$26, Fri/8 PM/\$29, Sat/7PM/\$29, Sat/10 PM/\$27 • The Brave New Workshop Theatre, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls • For tickets, call 612-332-6620 or visit [www.bravenewworkshop.com](http://www.bravenewworkshop.com)



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No sack of mine would be complete without bacon. Since bacon-scented sunscreen has yet to hit the market, I decided to drop in a tube of J&D's Bacon Lip Balm. Keep your lips moist with meat!

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## **RANGER PANTIES**

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I'm on a personal crusade to bring back short-shorts for men. And there's one pair in particular that serves all your summer shenanigans perfectly. Ranger panties. Yes, Ranger panties. Worn by US Army Rangers, these sassy little skivvies are perfect for sun, swim and swagger.

## **KINDLE**

**Amazon.com • \$139**

If there aren't enough half-naked muscle men in speedos to ogle on the beach, the Kindle can help pass the tan time. I love mine and their E Ink display makes them perfect for sunny summer outdoor reading. I'm currently reading *Swamplandia!* on mine, but there are over one million titles to choose from.

## **JELLY BABIES**

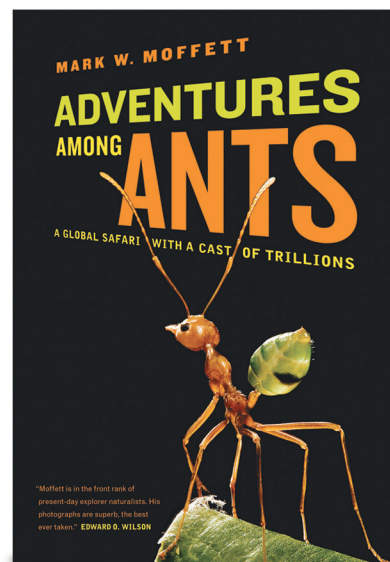
**EnglishTeaStore.com • \$3.97**

Every sack needs a snack and mine is filled with fruity fistfuls of Jelly Babies. The yummy gummy Brit snack is perfect for peckish moments poolside. No longer just the confection of choice for time travelers, Jelly Babies, are perfect for every pocket.

## **ZEVIA COLA**

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No summer cooler of mine is complete without something to quench my caffeinated cravings. My favorite fizzy drink of late is ZEVIA Cola. I love diet cola drinks, but all the artificial chemicals in them makes me kinda weary. ZEVIA is sweetened with all-natural Stevia extract which is tasty and chemical free.



## **ADVENTURES AMONG ANTS BY MARK W. MOFFETT**

**Amazon.com • \$19.77**

If you haven't quite fallen for the e-book experience just yet and are looking for a good old-fashioned book to bring with you to the beach and beyond, check out Mark Moffett's *Adventures Among Ants*. After listening to an interview with Mark on *Fresh Air*, I fell in love with his tales of the tiny critters. Super fascinating and perfect for your summer reading list.



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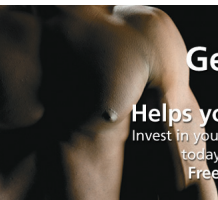
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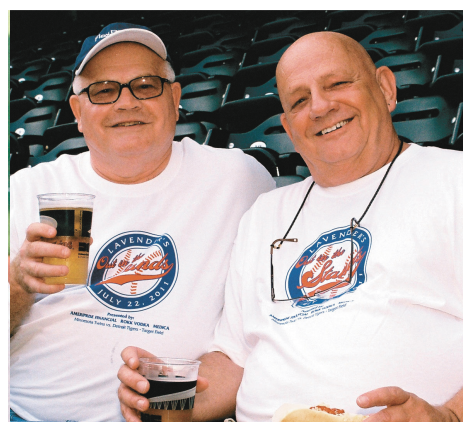
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## BUSINESS PROFILE | by Heidi Fellner



Tracy Morgan and Molly Herrmann. Photo Courtesy of Kitchen in the Market

## KITCHEN IN THE MARKET

TAKING A COOKING class at Kitchen in the Market is somewhat similar to attending a class at any reputable retail-based kitchen, in that you can perfect your cooking techniques with the aid of local chefs, and jazz up your food repertoire. It's how a Kitchen in the Market class is different that's noteworthy. "We are a shared commercial kitchen space that never stops, and we're located in a public market. That's a very different feel," begins Molly Herrmann, who co-owns Kitchen in the Market with Tracy Morgan. She continues, "When folks come in, they're cooking alongside commercial chefs doing their thing, with commercial-grade equipment."

Kitchen in the Market's location inside Minneapolis' Midtown Global Market has also had an immeasurable impact on the kitchen's classes. Morgan explains, "The Cooking the Market class is such a great example. When you go to the grocery store, it's about what's freshest, what's in season... it's not a set menu—it's cooking on the fly, and taking inspiration from the market."

A full class list is available through their website, but highlights like Karaoke Cooking: Sing for your Supper, and Out in the Kitchen definitely create a more dynamic and social experience. "Every class is a party," states Herrmann. "We have a good time, and we want people to view it as an

evening of entertainment." The Out in the Kitchen class is specifically designed with the GLBT community in mind as an interactive, welcoming place to learn. Some installments of this class benefit GLBT-friendly organizations, or may be loosely geared towards a gender identity. Morgan says, "It's not a pickup joint, but a fun environment to get together and hang out." She adds, "We did one called 'Hangin' with the Boys'. It was guy-centric, but it doesn't have to be all guys. We had four girls at that one, and the next one is basically a party for Project 515, to talk a little about what they're doing and spread awareness of their project."

Classes range in price from free demos on the weekends to around \$70 for a class involving a full meal and wine. But perhaps what makes Herrmann and Morgan the most proud of their new venture is the impact their kitchen has had on the market as a whole. Morgan concludes, "At its core, this business exists to help the other businesses in Midtown Global Market. It's really exciting to be involved in the community in that way." ■

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# I Do?

I SUPPOSE I'VE avoided the subject of gay marriage for as long as I can. I'm surrounded by states that are merrily caving to the demands of gays marching with placards that say such clever things as "If Liza can marry 2 gay men, why can't I marry 1?" Even Iowa allows gays to unionize. Iowa!

I live in a state that does not allow gays to marry or unionize. And, secretly, I'm kind of happy about it. (Well, not so secretly. I am writing a column about it after all.)

I'm thrilled that the gay marriage issue is causing the religious right to collectively explode in rage. It's fun to watch. And I'm delighted that corporations are forced to pay benefits to partners of gay employees. And, just to show that I have a scrap of heart, I was touched to tears to read about the longtime couples whose relationships were finally officially recognized when New York legalized gay marriage.

But marriage for me? Ugh, I don't know.

One of the things I've always loved about being gay is that so little is expected of us. We've been free to live our lives in whatever stupid, weirdo fashion we please. For some, that means having guilt-free sex in

forest preserves or forging a new family from members of your softball team. For me, it means doing whatever the hell I want, whenever the hell I want to do it. My parents have stopped sighing over my lifestyle long ago. They finally surrendered their vision of me as the perfect suburban housewife when I bought a fantastic lake cottage with the money I would have set aside for college funds had I stayed married to a man. They got grandchildren from my brother, and a lakeside retreat from me. They're happy.

But now, with the marriage option on the table, the straights are starting to apply pressure.

"So, where are you going to get married?" Since the marriage decision came down in New York, I've been bombarded by that question from well-meaning straight friends. All of these friends are married themselves, and I've spent years listening to their rhapsodies of marital woe for years. Yet, still, they want me to join their miserable club.

My reluctance to wed has nothing to do with my feelings for my girlfriend. I love her! She's a pumpkin! I want to be with her forever and I don't want to have sex with anyone else. If she needed my insurance or some

other type of financial aid that marriage affords, then I'd get hitched. But she doesn't.

We met in our 40s, for Chrissakes. We're adults. We have our own homes and our own money. Recently, we decided that because we're both workaholics, we'd live apart on weekdays. We've never been happier. We get on each other's nerves during the week, but we have great fun on the weekends. So, we've decided to keep the fun part and jettison the irritation. And because we're gay, we can do that! But if we were married, I suspect there would be pressure to spend every Goddamned waking moment together.

Still, my girlfriend likes the idea of getting married. Mainly, I suspect, because she wants a big party. But, as I've told her repeatedly, we're gay! We need no legal reason for a party. We just need someone to drop by with a bag of ice and, suddenly, a party breaks out.

All that said, I'm very happy for all the married gays out there. It's fantastic to finally have the choice. And, if there's any population that can turn marriage on its head and make it fun and sparkly, it's the gays. ■

TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA

POR RODRO

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Why is it that the gays abhor clams so much?



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**Dear Ms. Behavior:**

About three months ago, my friend Kirk confessed his romantic feelings toward me. I adore Kirk and wish I felt the same. It's confusing, because when we're not together, I can imagine dating him. But when I'm in Kirk's physical presence, I can't conjure up any romantic or sexual feelings.

Now I'm casually dating a few guys, and I've noticed that I've been avoiding telling Kirk. I don't know why I'm being evasive. Does it mean I secretly want Kirk? Can my friendship feelings for Kirk grow into romantic ones?

—T.

**Dear T.:**

It's a sad fact that it's nearly impossible to manufacture chemistry. Sometimes friendships change to romantic relationships, but

usually only when there's a bit of attraction from the start. If it were possible to rationally select partners based on compatibility rather than the influence of pheromones and hormones, fewer insanely mismatched couples would be subsidizing their therapist's second homes and their children's orthodontists.

Maybe you're keeping your dating life a secret from Kirk to protect him from feeling rejected. Or, a shallower analysis might suggest that you want to maintain your role as the object of Kirk's attention. It's flattering to feel desired. You should tell Kirk about your dates. Maybe he'll withdraw from you for a while; he may not totally get over you until he gets a new boyfriend himself. But once Kirk does have a new boyfriend, feelings of competitiveness may trump the lack of chemistry and Kirk may become the most

magnificent creature you've ever smelled.

**Dear Ms. Behavior:**

I've been with the Love of My Life for about four months. At first, the sex was tentative, tender. Because I already loved her so much, I was terrified the first month we were together. A few times, I said I had an orgasm when I didn't – mostly when I had some incest feelings and didn't feel present enough to come. (I'm an incest survivor who has worked very diligently on recovery, but occasionally those feelings still rise up and slap me in the face.) I didn't think it was exactly romantic to say, "Honey, my father is here in bed with us." The thing is, my girlfriend had been very open and supportive and made me promise to tell her if I had any issues. She actually made me promise to never fake an orgasm – as if she could

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look right inside me and see what was going on. Our sexual connection has deepened and I've been able to stay very present during sex. In fact, fake orgasms haven't been an issue at all. I recently confessed about those early few times and now my girlfriend is very upset. She feels betrayed and angry, and I don't blame her. I feel confused and miserable. What can I do to repair this damage and regain her trust? I want to promise to be completely honest, but I fear that total honesty might mean sometimes discussing my unsexy past trauma. What if this honesty kills our deepening sexual connection and makes her see me as damaged and gross? What should I do?

—TRYING TO BE REAL

### Dear Trying To Be Real:

Honesty doesn't kill a sexual connection. Lying does. You can repair the damage and regain your girlfriend's trust by being consistently truthful. You don't need to tell her the details of your traumatic past, but telling her when something keeps you from feeling engaged during sex will let you both feel closer, more trusting, and more present.

Distracting thoughts come up for a lot of people during sex, even when incest isn't an issue. It's hard to feel connected unless you can ask for specific things you need, like, "I have to stop for a minute and look at you," or "Please get your knee off my windpipe."

Your honesty won't make her see you as "damaged and gross." It will more likely make her feel tender toward you.

Ms. Behavior doesn't think she needs to tell you not to fake any more orgasms, but it will also help if you make it a practice to not lie about anything. In fact, if your girlfriend asks you if you like her hideous new shoes, say, "No, I think they're hideous." If she asks if her snoring awakened you, don't pretend it didn't. If you're lucky enough to have found The One, don't blow it. Be kind and clear and truthful, and she'll probably insist on staying with you forever. □

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# The Asshole Hypothesis

Does it take one to know one?

I'M WHAT YOU might consider an expert on assholes.

No, not that kind!

I mean *people* assholes.

Ugh, I mean people *who are* assholes.

There we go.

Some people think I'm one. Take, for instance, one of my first outings in Minneapolis.

A little bit of background: I moved here almost two years ago and I love introducing myself to strangers (in the right setting)—I've met some of my closest friends this way.

Being new, I knew no one. To remedy this, I engaged my affinity for strangers and took to the bars, to networking events, to fundraisers and volunteer activities—any way I could meet friends.

During one night at an establishment I now frequent all too frequently, as I walked around the bar smiling at all those Minnesota boys, Red Bull-Vodka in hand, a rather feisty man stopped me.

"I just want to let you know," he said bitchily, "that you look real cute, but you look like a complete bitch."

He rolled his eyes and left me standing in shock by a dimly lit pool table.

I thought about dropping my drink for dramatic effect, but took a sip of it instead. That mother was \$8.

The bar suddenly felt empty. I wanted im-

mediately to return home to North Carolina, to a place where I had friends. Where what people thought didn't matter because you had people who loved you.

In Minneapolis, it dawned on me in this moment that no one here loved me. I wasn't just in a strange city. I was alone in a strange city.

Was it my hair? I have spikey hair. Maybe that rubs people the wrong way here. I couldn't imagine anything else. I smiled at everyone I saw. I spoke to a few. I laughed at the bartender's silly jokes. I did everything an unbitch would do.

I knew what an asshole was, too.

I knew my ex was one the first time he hit on another boy in front of me. His later verbal abuse and threats of physical violence only confirmed it. Once, in one of his frequent fits of rage, he called me a "mistake." Über-asshole.

His was an obvious case, though. There are more subtle examples. One acquaintance, who proudly admits his assholiness, is what I'd consider subtle. He's one of those people who, when you first meet, seems nice enough, but will suggest his life is superior to yours at every turn: (Excitedly) "Oh, you got fries with your meal! I haven't had fries in years! How long does it take you to burn that off at the gym? Do you ever go to the gym?"

The assholes in life come in many breeds (I know many more—most of whom I've dated). Here's my working list, in order of most intolerable:

(1) **Hypocritical A-Hole:** if you're gonna be an asshole, you should really stick to

your principles.

(2) **Two-Faced A-Hole:** nothing's worse than a disingenuous person. A disingenuous asshole, though? Really? Isn't the whole point to be yourself without regard for others, or decency?

(3) **Go-for-the-Jugular A-Hole:** this was my ex (and the lovely guy I met at the beginning of this column). Vicious!

(4) **Subtle A-Hole:** they're sneaky bitches!

(5) **Wannabe A-Hole:** these are socially awkward assholes who stumble on their criticisms of others. They're amusing to watch ramble.

A common theme between all breeds of this socially magnetic animal: insecurity. There's gotta be something going on to make one waste energy on making other people miserable.

This article isn't for you, Minnesota—99% of the people I've met in the Twin Cities are genuinely nice people. You embrace, perhaps most impressively, a sense of humility despite how great you are. I'm proud to call myself a resident of this area, and I hope you'll keep me in your heart for a long time to come.

This article is for the Ice Queens who do exist. Think about what you say before you say it. Symptoms of assholiness include word vomiting.

Oh, and to that one guy who called me a bitch: I promise I'm not. Unless, of course, it takes one to know one. ■

Keep in touch! Facebook.com/JustinJonesWriter